

Pediatric Medical Units



The Social Security Administration is funding a multi-year project to design pediatric medical units (PMUs) and test their ability to assist State and Federal adjudicators. PMUs will be designed to provide additional medical assessments and documentation of complex childhood disability cases (those including multiple impairments and/or multiple body systems). Providing this assistance will provide DDSs with sufficient medical documentation to make the right disability determination as early in the process as possible.

What States are involved?

SSA has selected three sites to test the PMU initiative:

Iowa's University Center for Excellence on Disabilities (Iowa City, Iowa)
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Boling Center for Developmental Disabilities (Memphis, Tennessee)
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University of Washington LEND Program (Seattle, Washington)
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The site in Iowa City is a regional PMU and will serve all four States in the Kansas City Region.

How does it work?

The PMUs will play a critical role in helping DDSs make disability decisions. When a Disability Examiner receives a childhood disability application which is difficult to determine, the doctors and specialists within the PMU may be consulted regarding the appropriate tests or examinations to obtain.

The PMU may conduct a case assessment that will review the current medical evidence to determine the functional impact of individual impairments as well as combinations of impairments. PMUs may also be asked to conduct consultative exams.

SSA has selected three sites for its first year of operation and expects to begin providing services to DDSs in fall 2006. SSA plans to select an additional five sites for its second year of operation.

SSA's Expectations

The PMUs will provide a valuable service to DDSs by providing expert information on impairments, functional limitations, and providing a means to acquiring the documentation necessary to make eligibility determinations as early in the adjudication process as possible. We hope the assistance provided by PMUs will reduce the number of childhood cases that are reversed upon appeal.

For More Information

If you have questions about the Pediatric Medical Units project, please contact us at ssa.demonstrations@ssa.gov

